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FELON CONVICTED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM

DUBLIN, GA: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that Johnny Lee Whipple was convicted of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon by a federal court jury sitting in U.S. District Court in Dublin today.

The case originated in the early morning hours of December 17, 2004, in Dublin, Georgia, following a domestic dispute between Whipple and his girlfriend. Although Whipple was not located when officers first responded to the 911 call following the domestic disturbance, they later located Whipple outside of his apartment. When found, Whipple was highly intoxicated and in possession of a fully-loaded ammunition magazine which matched a pistol found lying beneath his apartment window. Whipple was thereafter arrested, and found to have a felony record. Whipple now faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on his conviction.

Wood said this case was federally prosecuted as part of this district's Project Ceasefire initiative, a program devoted to reducing gun violence by prosecuting individuals found in possession of firearms who cannot legally possess them, such as felons.

The investigation involved the cooperative efforts of the Dublin Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Patricia G. Johnson.

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